GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1102
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Soil Testing Laboratories
Nagar Shri Rodmal;Teli Shri Rameswar;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing soil testing laboratories along with the steps taken to improve the infrastructure and efficacy of such laboratories in the country including the State of Assam;

(b) whether the Government has proposed to increase the number of soil testing laboratory including mobile soil testing laboratories for successful implementation of soil health card scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has fixed yearly target for soil testing under soil testing programme, if so, the details of testing done upto now, if not, the details steps taken by the Government, so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): There are 1414 Soil Testing Labs available in the country including the State of Assam. State/UT-wise details are given at Annexure-I. Government is implementing Soil Health Management Scheme to set up soil testing labs. During 2016-17, 277 static soil testing labs, 3 mobile soil testing labs, up gradation of 38 soil testing labs with micronutrient facilities and 2296 mini soil testing labs are sanctioned under the scheme.

(c): The Government has introduced Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme with the aim to provide soil health cards to all 14 crore land holdings across the country once in a cycle of 2 years. A total of 2.53 crore samples will be collected and tested to generate 14 crore soil health cards to individual farm land holdings. As on 15.11.2016, 212.96 lakh samples collected, 127.95 lakh samples tested and 344.70 lakh Soil Health Cards distributed to farmers in cycle 2015-16 to 2016-17. State / UT-wise detail is given at Annexure-II.